

Andrew Jackson to John Clark, July 13, 1819, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN CLARK.¹

1 Copy.

Hermitage, July 13, 1819.

D'r Sir. I have the pleasure to acknowledge the recpt of your friendly letter of the 24th of May last in answer to mine of the 20th of april, it reached me in due course of mail, and found me confined to my bed, on my recovery the President reached me,² who, my duty compelled me to accompany, through the no[r]thern part of my Division, from which Tour I only returned on the evening of the 11th Inst, which will account for my delay in replying to your letter. 29

² Leaving Washington in April, 1819, President Monroe made a tour of the South in May and June, travelling to Atlanta, thence to Nashville, to Lexington, and back to Washington.

I am happy to be informed that you are preparing a publication,³ that will give to the world a full portrait of Mr Wm. H. Crawford, if the painting is well drawn, from my own knowledge of the man, it will portray, hypocracy surrounded with all its horid deformity, depravity, and baseness of human charector; so soon as it is in type you will confer an obligation on me by enclosing me the copy you have promised, as I am preparing an answer to the famous report of the committee of the Senate, I would be much pleased to receive it before that is concluded.

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3 General Clark's book (208 pages) appeared late in 1819 with the title, *Considerations on the Purity of the Principles of W. H. Crawford, Esqr.* It was a violent diatribe, as the reader of his letters to Jackson might expect. John Quincy Adams, who disliked Crawford intensely, spoke of it as exaggerated and untrustworthy (*Memoirs*, V. 185). There is an ineffectual notice of it in J. G. D. Shipp's *Life and Times of William H. Crawford*, pp. 161–164.

I recollect to have seen in the Georgia Journal about the date you name the Editorial remark that the Cabinet had divided on the subject of my arrest, I should be happy to obtain a certificate that Wm H Crawford or Mr Cobb who was in company with him give rise to this Editorial remark, as I have assurances, from the source of information that this is a positive and meditated falsehood, if originating from Wm H Crawford, and If I can substantiate this fact on him, will hurl him from his present exalted station—will you have the goodness to procure every information you can on this subject and enclose it to me as early as possible. If it can be traced to Mr Cobb and he in company with Mr Crawford the inference is plain that he must have derived the intelligence from him, If no further proof can be had on this subject, may I give the extract of your letter to the Public, when the occasion may occur, or will you embody it in form for this purpose and enclose it to me.

I mean in due time to endeavour to expose this Mr Wm H Crawford to the world with all his deformity about him, in which I will bring to view the african business. I have but little doubt from what I heard in Georgia as I passed through it in 1818, that this man was engaged with Genl Mitchel in this speculation whether the proof can be reached I cannot say but if a mr Woodward who was on the Seminole Campaign⁴ could be got to divulge what he knows, I have but little doubt he could Establish the fact of the purchase of those africans at Amelia Island and Ft St Augustine, whether he can Establish the fact of a copartnership between Mitchell and Crawford is uncertain; but the time and manner of giving the appointment to Mitchell when it was promised to Genl Meryweather, and he solicited to accept both by Mr Crawford and Mitchell when exposed to the public view, will

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induce an enquiry how it came to pass that the appointment was given to Mitchell and the moving cause that induced Mr Crawford to give it, and induced Mitchell to descend from the Exalted station of Governor to that of an Indian agent, the application of the Eighty thousand dollars must have been the moving cause, and the manner of its application will shew the design of the donor and acceptor at the next Congress, I suppose this thing will be stirred

4 Thomas S. Woodward. His testimony is printed in *Am. St. Pap., Misc.*, II. 960, where (pp. 957–975) the whole matter is set forth.

and an enquiry had. if any proof can be obtained I would give it a proper direction to this point, and If I can I intend to hint at this thing in my answer to the report of the committee of the senate.

I shall be happy to hear from you on the recpt of this; and it will afford me much pleasure to reply. accept assurances of my high Esteem and respect, and believe me to be yr. mo. ob. serv.